Revised July 2013

**Murray State University**
**Masters of Arts in Education/Reading and Writing: Literacy Specialist Endorsement P-12**
**Program Guide Sheet**

Student Name_____ M#_____

Best way to contact_____.

The MA degree program is designed to fulfill course requirements for Rank II classification (or for Rank I classification for those with a prior Master's Degree) and to fulfill the requirements for the Literacy Specialist Endorsement, P-12.

NOTE: The Kentucky Education Professional Standards Board requires candidates to pass the Praxis Reading Specialist Exam to receive their Literacy Specialist Endorsement. (See www.ets.org/praxis/ky/requirements for information on the exam.) Students who do not take the exam will still receive the degree and rank change.

The program must be **PREPLANNED** with one's advisor and shall consist of 30 semester hours of graduate level course work with a minimum of 9 hours in professional education and a minimum of 15 hours of 600 level courses. Admission to the program requires a valid teaching certificate. The teacher certification requirement for admission to the program may be waived with the understanding that completion of the program will not certify one for the Literacy Specialist Endorsement (Grades P-12) or as a classroom teacher in Kentucky. An additional course pertaining to exceptionality of children is required if the student has not taken such a course or its equivalent for undergraduate credit. Students may transfer up to 12 hours of credit not used in another graduate degree program as approved by the advisor, and the requirements for the program must be completed within eight years from the time a student initially enrolls in any course applicable to the program.

The student's progress will be continuously assessed throughout the program using established program checkpoints and LiveText entries addressing IRA and Kentucky Teacher Standards. Purchase of LiveText is required. Students must achieve a minimum 3.0 grade point average. Students should consult the current MSU *Graduate Bulletin* for detailed information on admission and other requirements.

**PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION ~ Core Courses (9 credit hours)**

EDU 639 Research to Improve Student Learning (3)
EDU 633 Curriculum Development (3)
EDU 631 Classroom Management and Student Motivation (3)

**SPECIALIZATION ~ ( 15 Hours)**

REA 612[1] Foundations of Literacy (3) ([1] This course should be the first REA course taken.)
REA 626 Word Study: Phonics, Spelling, and Vocabulary
REA 628 Literacy Assessment (3)
REA 638 Assessment and Instruction of Children w/Reading Difficulties (3)
REA 639[2] Supervised Practicum in Reading (3) ([2]REA 612, 626, 628, and 638 MUST be completed before enrolling in REA 639.)

**LIMITED READING/WRITING ELECTIVES ~ (6 Hours )**

Electives must be approved in advance by the student's education advisor. At least one course with a major emphasis on writing (e.g. REA 618, ENG 604/605, ELE 602,) MUST be included.

Elective with emphasis on writing:

_____ _____ _____

Other elective:

_____ _____ _____

**TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS FOR THE PROGRAM 30**

SUGGESTED ELECTIVES:

REA 618[3] Content Area Reading/Writing P-12 (3) ([3]Highly recommended)
ELE 602 Integrating Language Arts (3)
REA 624 Special Problems (Kentucky Reading Project – by application only. See http://www.kentuckyliteracy.org/elementary/krp) (3)
ENG 604/605 Purchase Area Writing Project I & II – by application only. See http://campus.murraystate.edu/pawp/ (6)
ELE 616 Research in Children's Literature (3)
LIB 617 Research in Young Adult Literature (3)
REA 627 Teaching Reading in the Secondary School (3)

The student and advisor have discussed this program and agree to the foregoing plan. An official ***MSU Graduate Program Form*** (http://coekate.murraystate.edu/coecms/ncate/manager/advsheet/) must also be completed and submitted to the advisor along with this form **prior to completion of the first course taken.**

_____ _____ _____

Student Signature Advisor Signature Date

## MA Reading and Writing Checklist

_____1. Contact your advisor for help choosing electives and with any other questions. Fill out the Advising Sheet AND the Graduate Program Form (both available online at http://coekate.murraystate.edu/ncate/manager/advsheet/). Send to your advisor during your first semester in the program. IF YOU FAIL TO COMPLETE YOUR PROGRAM FORM, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT CHANGES TO THE PROGRAM MAY CAUSE SOME CLASSES ALREADY TAKEN NOT TO COUNT.

_____2. If you want to substitute an elective for one that was listed on your initial program form, you must first get your advisor's permission. If it is approved, a Course Substitution Form (available online at http://coekate.murraystate.edu/graduate/forms/) must be completed and sent to your advisor.

_____3. Submit the Application for Degree (available online at http://coekate.murraystate.edu/graduate/forms/ ) at the beginning of the semester in which you intend to graduate.

## Course Load

Nine hours of graduate level classes is a full-time load; students employed full-time are encouraged to take ONE CLASS per semester. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES should they take MORE THAN TWO classes per semester. Students in graduate classes should expect to spend 6 – 9 hours per week on each full-semester class (not including the 3 hours of in-class time). Students in online classes should expect to spend 9-12 hours per week on each full-semester class. This means more than one hour of work PER DAY PER CLASS is expected during a full-semester course. Shorter sessions demand even more work per day. Students are encouraged not to sign up for more than they can reasonably do; a grade of Incomplete will not be given simply because a student has not planned well.